

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 11853 151801Z
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TAGS: OAS, TECH
SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION: OAS TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS

REF: (A) STATE 299448 (B) STATE 301521

SUMMARY: PROBABLE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVES TO TEWG OUTLINED A POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OF US REGARDING ORGANIZATION AND OBJECTIVES OF TEWG. THEY HOPE US DELEGATION WILL DESCRIBE ATTITUDE OF INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION DURING EARLY PART OF 10 JANUARY MEETING. THEY SUPPORT U.S. IDEAS FOR REGIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER. THEY WANT TO EXPLORE WAYS TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN ATTRACTING AND HOLDING QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED SCIENCE, I.E., LARGER BUDGETS. THEY WANT GREATER ATTENTION FOCUSED ON TECHNOLOGY NEEDS OF SMALL BUSINESS, COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, SMALL FARMERS, FISHERMEN, ETC. THEY WANT TO SUPPLEMENT TECHNICAL INFORMATION WITH DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND THEY WANT TO FOCUS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTING INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY WHICH UTILIZES MORE WORKERS AND LESS COMPLICATED MACHINERY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE (GOC) HAS YET TO OFFICIALLY SELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP (TEWG), BUT THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT THE DELEGATES WILL BE:
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 11853 151801Z

JOAQUIN CORDUA, FORMER DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND CHILE'S FOREMOST EXPERTS ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; OSCAR AGUERO, A CONICYT ATTORNEY IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; AND GUILLERMO RAMIREZ, AN ATTORNEY AND EXECUTIVE SUBDIRECTOR OF CONICYT.

2. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER MET WITH ABOVE INDIVIDUALS ON 11 DEC TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE ORGANIZATION AND OBJECTIVES OF TEWG. JOAQUIN CORDUA, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP, OUTLINED A POSITION VERY CLOSE TO OUR OWN. THE GROUP TOOK NOTES ON SCIENCE OFFICER'S COMMENTS DRAWN FROM PARA 6 OF REFTEL A AND INDICATED SUPPORT FOR SIMILAR TEWG ORGANIZATION AND SCHEDULING. THE GROUP ALSO HOPED TO AVOID POLEMICS CONCERNING MNC'S, CODES OF CONDUCT, CONCESSIONARY TRANSFER, ETC., WITHIN TEWG CONTEXT BUT THOUGHT THESE SUBJECTS APPROPRIATE FOR OTHER FORA.

3. ONE OF THE MAIN PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE CHILEANS IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. THE CHILEANS RECOMMEND A THOROUGH BRIEFING THIS SUBJECT ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING. THEIR REACTIONS TO U.S. IDEAS FOR REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE SERVICE FOR LATIN AMERICA, AND EXPANDED ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE WERE MOSTLY POSITIVE. LIKE MOST CHILEANS CONCERNED WITH TECHNOLOGY MATTERS, THEY WERE AGAINST AN INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND LUKEWARM ABOUT AN OAS CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. OPPOSITION CENTERS ON SUSPICION THAT REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER WOULD ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO EXISTING OVERLY BUREAUCRATIC MECHANISMS AS WELL AS DIVERT BADLY NEEDED OPERATIONAL FUNDS INTO ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES.

4. THE PRINCIPALS AREAS OF INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE CHILEANS WERE LARGELY A REPEAT OF REFTEL B, PARA 3 (EXCEPT 3E). ADDED TO THIS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WAYS MUST BE FOUND FOR GOC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS TO ATTRACT AND HOLD PERSONNEL WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED SCIENCE. LOW GOC SALARIES ARE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 11853 151801Z

FOR INABILITY OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES TO MAINTAIN QUALIFIED STAFF IN APPLIED SCIENCES.

(B) IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BETTER DEVELOPED BUSINESS SECTOR, GREATER ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO SMALL BUSINESSES, COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, SMALL FARMERS, FISHERMEN, ETC., WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO POSSIBILITY FOR USING AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY. DISCUSSION IS NEEDED ON HOW

TO MAKE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO THESE GROUPS;

(C) AVAILABLE INFORMATION IN LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTERS NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS FIRMS IN ORDER TO HELP BUSINESSES OVERCOME FIRST STAGE PROBLEMS. LOCAL BUSINESSES MAY SOON HAVE TO CREATE DEPARTMENTS FOR MANGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO EXPLOIT AVAILABLE INFORMATION; AND

(D) THERE IS A GREAT NEED IN CHILE FOR INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY THAT IS LOW IN CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS AND UTILIZES SIMPLE BUT DEPENDABLE AND LONG-LASTING MACHINERY. THIS WOULD EXTEND TO SMALL FIRM-TO-SMALL FIRM COOPERATIVE VENTURES; BETWEEN U.S. AND CHILEAN FIRMS FOR EXAMPLE. WAYS SHOULD ALSO BE EXPLORED TO INDUCE LARGE-SCALE BUSINESSES TO DECENTRALIZE INTO SMALL CENTERS OF PRODUCTION WHICH USE A LARGER NUMBER OF WORKERS AND LESS COMPLICATED MACHINERY.
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